

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/588,499  
Preliminary Amendment

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 10 and 20 are amended to more clearly define the claimed invention. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is entered. The allowance of Claims 11-13 and 15 is acknowledged.

In the Office Action of April 10, 2009, Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ishibashi et al. (JP 2003-113673).

Claim 10 is now amended to more clearly define a diameter of a wire rod which may have differing diameters along its length. It is respectfully submitted that JP'673 does not disclose or suggest a first base end fixation member and a top end fixation member having a width larger than a diameter of a first wire rod, as measured at a point along its length having the maximum diameter, as now claimed.

In the Office Action of April 10, 2009, Claims 1, 3, 4, 20, 21 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Osaka (JP 2007-238690).

Claims 1 and 20 are now amended to more clearly define the wire rod as being solid, and to define that the reinforced member insertion hole is formed between the inner face side and the outer face side of the existing reinforced concrete structure. It is respectfully submitted that JP'690 does not disclose or suggest this now claimed structure.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/588,499  
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In the Office Action, Claims 2, 5 and 22-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Osaka in view of Tuska (U.S. Patent No. 3,599,379).

In view of Claims 2, 5 and 22-24 depending from Claim 1 or 20, and the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 2, 5 and 22-24 are patentably distinct from the cited references.

In the Office Action, Claims 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Osaka in view of Rossi (U.S. Patent No. 6,860,935).

In view of Claims 6 and 7 depending from Claim 1, and the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 6 and 7 are patentably distinct from the cited references.

In the Office Action, Claims 17 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishibashi et al. (JP 2003-113673) in view of Andraet et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,867,960).

In view of Claims 17 and 26 depending from Claim 10, and the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 17 and 26 are patentably distinct from the cited references.

In view of the above remarks, Claims 1-7, 10, 17 and 20-26 as well as allowable Claims 11-13 and 15 are believed to be patentable and in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the

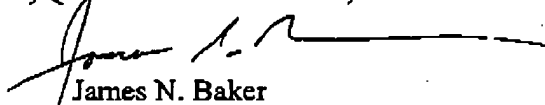
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Examiner is requested to contact the Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: Petition for Extension of Time  
Request for Continued Examination